

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02375 281150Z

ACTION AF-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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R 281045Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7810

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 2375

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW

1. SUMMARY: ITEMS TREATED BY SAUDI PRESS WERE ON
US AND PALESTINE PROBLEM AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S
MORALITY. END SUMMARY.

2. US AND PALESTINE PROBLEM

NASER GAMIL NASER, IN MARCH 21, AL-JAZIIRA DAILY,
SAYS THAT THE PRESENT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS ME
PROBLEM IS NOT CLEAR. HE ADDS THAT THE US MAKES
STATEMENTS, SOMETIMES, THAT ARE PLEASING TO ISRAEL
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BECAUSE THEY "SUPPORT HER EXPANSIONIST DREAMS."
NASER BELIEVES THAT THESE STATEMENTS ARE DESIGNED
TO SUPPORT RABIN INSIDE ISRAEL AND HELP HIM WIN THE
COMING ELECTIONS. ON THE ARAB SIDES "THESE STATEMENTS
CAUSED CONCERN AND RESENTMENT THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD."
CARTER'S LATEST STATEMENTS ABOUT A "HOMELAND FOR THE
PALESTINIANS" AND THE INVITATION OF THE PLO

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN'S RECEPTION FOR THE PRESIDENT WERE ALL APPLAUDED BY ARAB NATION. ARAB NEWS, MARCH 24, ENGLISH DAILY, COMMENTS EDITORIALY THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS FLOATED ANOTHER TRIAL BALLOON TO TEST ARAB REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S FEELING THAT ISRAEL MAY REQUIRE BORDERS THAT EXTEND DEEP INTO EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN AND JORDANIAN TERRITORIES. THE PAPER GOES ON TO SAY "IF THIS IS INDEED MR. CARTER'S THINKING ON THE SUBJECT, HE HAS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE HE CAN CLAIM AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE REALITIES IN THE ME. HE HAS APPARENTLY SWALLOWED ISRAEL'S "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS" FANTASY IN ITS ENTIRETY AND HOPES TO CONVINCE THE ARABS THAT SUCH A CONCEPT IS ACTUALLY VALID." THE PAPER NOTES FURTHER THAT IF ISRAEL WILL HAVE INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES, WHY DOES SHE WANT BIG CHUNKS OF ARAB LAND? THE PAPER CONCLUDES "THE US SHOULD INFORM THE ISRAELIS, GENTLY BUT DEFINITELY, THAT THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WITHDRAW TO THE 1967 BORDERS." REDA LARRY, IN OKAZ DAILY MARCH 24 SAYS THAT THE US AND SOVIET FORMULA FOR PEACE IN THE ME REFLECTS THEIR OWN VISION OF THE POLITICAL MAP OF THE ME "BUT THE ARABS DO NOT ACCEPT MAKING ANY RECESSIONS REGARDING THEIR JUST AND LEGAL RIGHTS." HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE PROBLEM HAS THREE DIMENSIONS: (1) ARAB LAND OCCUPIED BY FORCE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS. (2) REFUGEES WHO SHOULD HAVE A HOMELAND. (3) THE ME PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED IN ALL ITS ENTIRETY. ANY SOLUTION AWAY FROM THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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ELEMENTS, WITH OR WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE US AND RUSSIA WILL BE NOTHING BUT A TRANQUILISER. THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION WILL BURST AGAIN WHEN THE EFFECT OF THE TRANQUILISER ENDS."

3. PRESIDENT CARTER 'S MORALITY

MOHAMMED BARAKAT, IN MARCH 24 AL-BILAD DAILY, SAYS THAT IT SEEMS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS WAGING A CRUSADE IN DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EVEN AGAINST YESTERDAY'S ALLIES. ALL THE STANDS THAT HE TOOK AGAINST THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ABUSED INSURE THAT HE MEANS TO FULFILL THE PROMISE HE MADE DURING THE ELECTIONS. ISRAEL WAS INCLUDED AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES, AND CONSEQUENTLY, "WAS DENIED THE CONCUSSION BOMBS." YET ISRAEL STILL HAS PLENTY OF INFLUENCE INSIDE CONGRESS. THE ARABS SHOULD WAIT, WATCH AND MAINTAIN THEIR OWN SOLIDARITY, AS WELL AS THE ARAB-AFRICAN SOLIDARITY WHICH EMERGED DURING

THE LAST CAIRO MEETING."
SABBAGH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2979524
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, XF
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7e539b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009